

## Campus Retreat January 22-24

The second retreat of this school year will be given January 22 through the 24th at Avila. This will be the only on-campus retreat offered. Fr. Walter Conway, O.P., a former theology instructor at Avila, and now in Chicago as head of the Dominican foreign missions, will be retreatmaster. He will provide schedules for conferences, Masses, and spiritual meditation for all those who attend. The fee for the retreat will be \$1.50, and will be due by January 15th. The CCD is collecting the money.

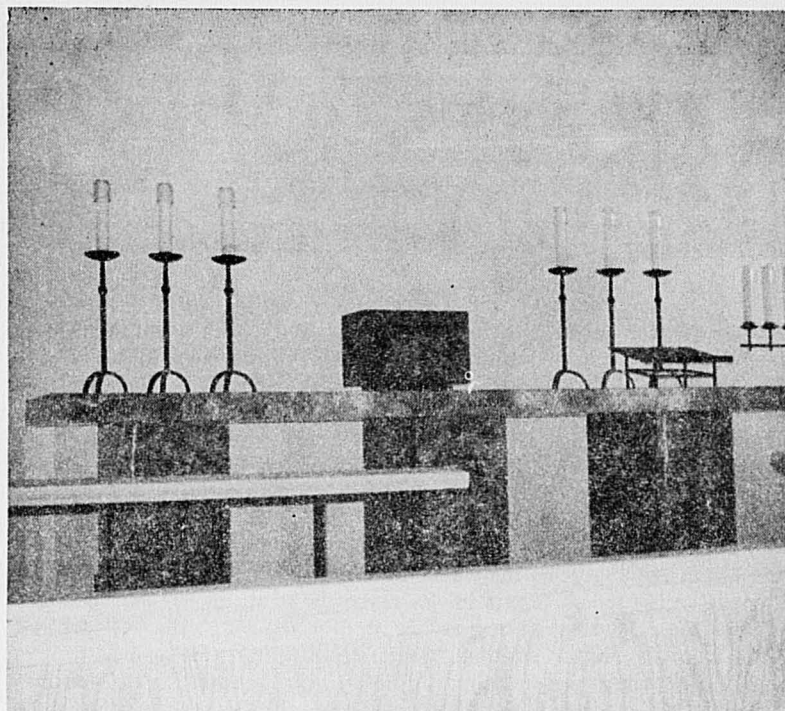
Registration for the second semester will follow the retreat on January 24th and 25th. Classes will recommence January 29th.

Attendance at an annual spiritual retreat is obligatory for all Catholic students. Students of other faiths are invited to attend if they wish but they are not required to do so.

## Bishop Dedicates Orscheln Chapel

The Kay Orscheln Memorial Chapel was dedicated by Bishop Charles Helmsing on Friday morning, Dec. 20. The modernistic altar, altar linens, and vestments were blessed by the Bishop in a ceremony which began at 9:00 a.m. The blessing was followed by a Low Mass.

Immediately after the Mass, an informal brunch was served in the lounge area of O'Reilly Hall. At 11:00, Bishop Helmsing addressed the faculty and students in the lounge.



## Second Place Won In Literary Contest

Mary Ann Shirley, senior English major, secured three points for Avila College in the Nineteenth Annual Book Review Contest sponsored by the Catholic Community Library. Mary Ann won second place in the contest with her review of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's controversial book, *The Divine Milieu*. Last week she received her prize, a beautifully bound *Life of Mary* illustrated by famous religious masterpieces.

The points won for Avila College in this division of the contest will be added to those won in the poetry, short story, drama, and essay divisions, which will be held in the spring. The total number of points earned by each participating college will determine which will hold the traveling O'Hara trophy during the next scholastic year. Donnelly College, whose first-place winner gained four points, is in the lead in the annual race for the trophy. Sacred Heart College, Wichita, gained possession of the trophy last year.

There was an interesting phenomenon observable in this year's book review contest. Usually, works of fiction capture the major awards in the contest. This year, however, four of the six reviews judged best were concerned with ecumenism, mysticism, and social reform. This reflects, quite probably, the changing concerns of the Catholic student, and his growing awareness of his position and responsibility in society.

# THE TERESIAN

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No. 3



On "The Twelfth Night of Christmas," the theme of this year's holiday season dance, one of these four candidates will be crowned the first "Avila Queen."... The four nominees, chosen by their respective classes, are Carole Delanie, freshman, and Valerie Shaw, sophomore, standing; Vicki Michaels, senior, and Marcia O'Neal, junior.... The queen will reign at the dance, sponsored by the sophomore class, January 5 at the Hotel Muehlebach.

### PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS!!

- Friday, December 20  
Consecration of the chapel  
Christmas vacation begins  
One-act play: 7 pm
- Sunday, January 5  
Sophomore Christmas Dance  
9 to 12
- Tuesday, January 7  
Classes resume
- Friday, January 10  
One-act play: 7:30 pm
- Monday, January 13  
Father Bannon, St. Louis  
University, to speak at 2:00  
assembly.
- Wednesday, January 15  
Final Exams begin
- Tuesday, January 21  
Exams are over
- Wednesday, January 22  
On-Campus retreat begins
- Saturday, January 25  
Senior comprehensive, Mary  
Margaret Salamone, 7:30  
pm
- Wednesday, January 29  
Second Semester begins
- Friday, February 21  
Senior Comprehensive  
Exams!!!!



# It Seems To Us

## Christmas Revisited

The editor faced with the problem of writing an original piece on Christmas runs the gamut of emotions from bewilderment to panic. The feeling that it has all been said before and far better is overwhelming. Christmas has been celebrated for centuries and every Christmas season brings with it a flood of comments from highly intellectual and deeply spiritual people. When it falls to the lot of the less intellectually and spiritually gifted to comment on the birth of Christ, there seems, on the surface at least, very little left to say.

Faced with this apparently unsolvable dilemma, I promptly despaired and began reading from the works of Thomas Merton. The writings of this Cistercian monk, joyous in the service of God, always afford solace and comfort. I was thumbing rather aimlessly through the book when I came upon a chapter entitled "Christmas Night." It begins, "Christ always seeks the straw of the most desolate cribs to make his Bethlehem." The chapter describes Christmas Eve in the monastery, when the monks rise at nine in the evening to begin their worship of the newborn Christ.

I read with interest the account Thomas Merton gave of his thoughts on Christmas Eve, and of the intensely mystical experience he underwent. Then I read the line, "You know that Christ is born within you, infinite liberty: that you are free!" This line, which echoes St. Paul's "I live now, not I, but Christ liveth in me," and St. Francis' "It is in dying that we are born to eternal life," suddenly brought into focus the great Christian antithesis. It is only when we die to ourselves that we give birth to Christ. It is only then that Christ will enter our "desolate crib" to make His Bethlehem.

As we gather with our families this Christmas to celebrate the historical birth and to anticipate Christ's second coming, let us too remember the living Christ who is born to each of us interiorly. Then with Thomas Merton we can exclaim the wonder of it all, "That we can love!"

L.M.

## A College Mourns

Disbelief . . . shock . . . tears . . . and finally silence. This describes the reaction of Avila students as well as all Americans to the tragic death of our president, John Kennedy. It was as though each had suffered her own personal loss. Many students went home immediately. Some classes continued, but a quiet, somber atmosphere permeated the halls of Avila.

Churches, televisions and radios united a grief-stricken nation in mourning the death of their leader. Admiration and respect revealed itself in the tears of a nation as they watched a widow kiss her husband's casket, a daughter cling to her mother's hand, a son salute his father's caisson.

"He is truly Christlike who is concerned about the welfare of others." (Seeking the Kingdoms, Fr. Masterson, O.P.) John Kennedy in his unwavering stand on segregation, in his recognition of the needs of the aged proved his concern for others. As president of the United States he worked diligently for his people. Not only did he strive for the peace and welfare of his own country but for that of the world.

On a Friday about 2000 years ago, a great Man hated by many for His love of others was brutally nailed to a cross. On a Friday in 1963 another great man, also hated by many, was brutally shot to death. On a Friday the dead Christ was held in the arms of one who stood by Him through all, who loved Him more than the others. On a Friday the dead president was held by one who stood by him, who loved him more than anyone. Both suffered a tragic death, one for the salvation of mankind, the other for his country. Only after their cruel assassination did people recognize and admit their greatness. Some will never admit it. For a truly great person strong in convictions and firm in action will always have enemies.

Since that tragic week-end in November, the laughter and spirit of Avila can again be heard in the halls. The flag at half mast remains as the only visible sign of mourning for John Kennedy. Occasionally a student gazes at the symbol of freedom and sorrow perhaps at the same time thanking God for the wonderful example of our first Catholic President.

M.A.D.

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## Rockhurst Group Sings at Assembly

On December 9, the Rockhurst College Glee Club directed by Mr. Norman Jennings entertained the students at Avila. "Say It With Music," "Lift A Glass To Friendship," "Oh Won't You Sit Down," and "Five Hundred Miles" (dedicated to the new Avila location) made up a very enjoyable program. A highlight of the program was special selections presented by the Bacchanals, including "Soft Blow The Summer Winds," and "Hangman." After the program the chorus joined the Avila girls in an informal Christmas caroling session.

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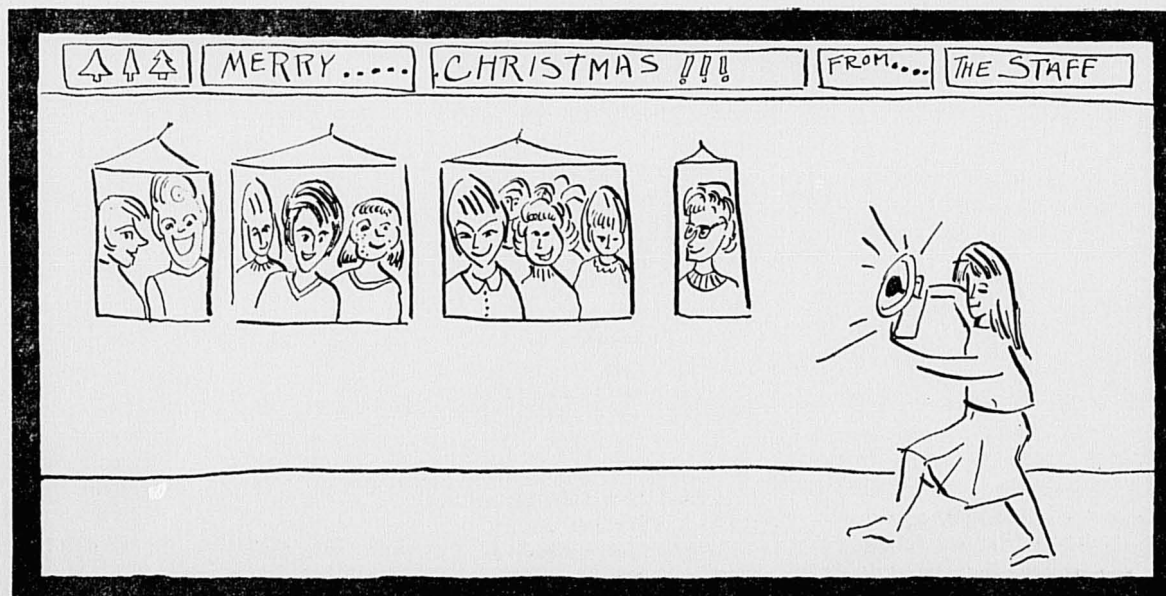
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## Students Discover Joy of Giving At Christmas Party

The annual faculty-student Christmas party had a new look to it this year. The students extended their spirit of giving to four needy families chosen from Fr. Feldstein's parish. Each girl was asked to bring clothing, food, and toys which the families could use. The girls delivered these gifts, wrapped as Christmas presents, to the families on Monday, December 16.

Each class had its own special duty. The sophomores, with the help of Fr. Nadeau, the pastor, selected the families which were most deserving. Publicity of the party was also their responsibility. The cafeteria-assembly-lounge area reflected the gaiety of an old-fashioned Christmas, the theme chosen by the juniors for decorations. Stockings were stuffed with candy and fruit and hung carefully on the "fireplace" by the Student Council.

Six Santa Helpers, (Mary Margaret Salamone, Janet Schmitz,

Genie Moley, Mary Ann Dunn, Vicki Michaels, and Diane Draney) carried lighted candles and led the children in. After the children had gathered around the tree, Santa, with the help of Mr. Byrd, gave them their own special gifts. Then everyone helped themselves to the refreshments provided by the Freshmen.

Mary Agnes Castrop, as president of the student body, gave Sr. Olive Louise the coffee urn which was the students' gift to the faculty this year.

## Senior Chooses "Saint Joan"

Saint Joan, by G. B. Shaw, has been chosen by Mary Margaret Salamone to be given as her senior comprehensive recital on January 25, at 8:00 p.m., in Avila's "Little Theatre" area on the lower level.

She will be assisted in the courtroom scene by Judy Cartier, Sharon Calloway, Elena O'Shea, and Phyllis Carl.

There will be a reception following the performance. Attendance will be by invitation only.

## Eighteen Years Pass Quickly In Art Work With Youth

Ann Linton

Some people associate bravery with a soldier in battle; I associate bravery with a teacher in class. It takes a special kind of courage to walk, armed with only a red pencil, into a roomful of untrained and unfriendly intellects and proceed to tame and train these intellects. Of course, teaching a 7:30 morning class is above and beyond the call of duty and should be rewarded with nothing less than a Purple Heart.

Like the army, Avila College presents its outstanding with a medal, the Saint Joseph Medal of Honor. Sister Georgiana Marie, Chairman of the Art Department and Dean of Students, received the medal for her work with the college's art department.

Since 1945 when she first became associated with the college art department, Sister has worked toward several objectives for the department. Her most important interest was to intensify her courses in painting and sculpture and in art education training while hoping to add other faculty, courses, and students. Sister has now met all of these objectives and the moving this fall into the new rooms in O'Rielly Hall was the culmination of all her plans. At present Sister Joan Louise teaches

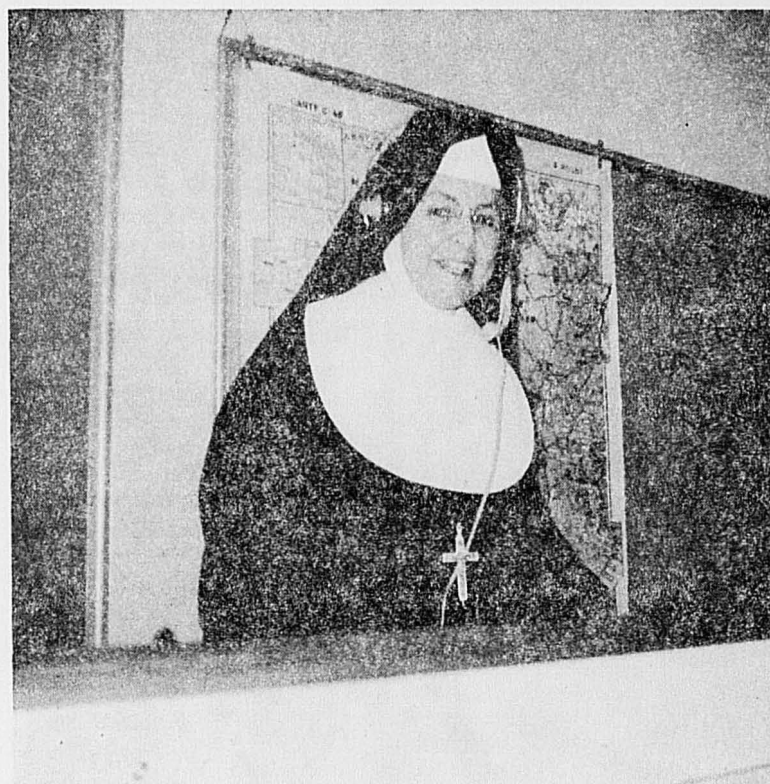
sculpture in one of the two art rooms while Sister Georgiana Marie teaches in the other.

In her classes Sister strongly accents oil painting which she describes as a "contemporary trend in constructing in color a metaphorical image of nature." Sister explains herself further, "By metaphorical I mean not literal but requiring the use of the imagination. Good art should invite one to contemplate."

Within the last two years Sister has launched another phase of art, a children's art program, which Avila art students assist in teaching. Sister feels that there is a great need for more stimulation of creative art in children. Students in parochial schools need more creative art. One of Sister's greatest concerns is that students are afraid to major in college art. She traces this fear to high school where an art program is not fully developed.

Sister Georgiana Marie's eighteen years work with the art department has brought many innovations to the college, but Sister has also gained from her work, as she herself says, "The time I've spent with college students seems short because of the joy and constant change which come from work with youth."

## A New Lab and a Visit to "La Belle France"—Two Dreams Fulfilled



Sister Rita Agnes, wearing the instructor's headphones, work at the console in the language laboratory.

Janet Schmitz

For Sister Rita Agnes, head of the Avila language department, two long-time dreams came true this year. One was a visit this summer in France, her parents' former home, and the other was the reality of a full-sized language laboratory on the new campus.

When Sister first came to the college 17 years ago, she had only a small tape recorder and record player for a "laboratory." She gradually obtained a few more facilities, but for years she planned and hoped for a "real" laboratory. The result is a laboratory with the latest equipment, made by the Rheems Califone Corporation, used by French, Spanish, and German students. In the lab many things can be done at once: for example, students can record tapes and their own voices simultaneously; oral tests can be given, and cross-booth conversations can be held.

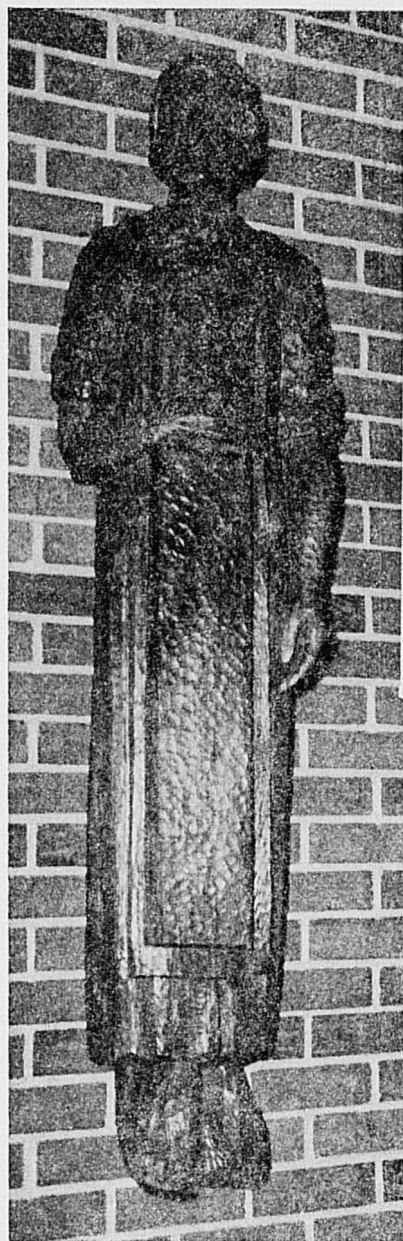
"I firmly believe that you must hear the language and use it," Sister says. This has been the basis for her methods of teaching phonetically and of speaking only the language in the classroom. "Ne traduisez pas" is her constant adage to beginning French students.

Sister Rita Agnes was one of four Sisters of St. Joseph to attend a summer Institute in Rennes, France. She had visited France once before, with her father, before she became a sister. This time

however, she had a different purpose in visiting France, perhaps "more intellectual" she says—to really see and feel "La Belle France" that she loves so well. In Rennes, courses in civilization, linguistics, creative writing, as well as plays, movies, and concerts helped the members take full advantage of their stay in France. Sister was enthusiastic about a special seminar given on the works of the controversial Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, author of *The Divine Milieu*. Sister traveled all over France, from Brittany and the Loire Valley to the Mediterranean. She spent two weeks in Paris, often just walking and discovering the many facets of the city. She visited relatives, and in Rennes, was invited, with other members of the Institute, to the homes of the townspeople. Not only were they invited to the homes of the town leaders, by even to the house of a chauffeur who "was born in the little town of Iffindie, not far from Rennes, where my mother was born." In Brittany, she discovered the people to be Irish-like, retaining their folk customs and costumes.

Sister loves to talk about France, and her enthusiasm for its language and people is communicated to her students. What did she like best about France? "It's impossible to say . . . just being on French soil! — My feelings are indescribable."





## Original Statute Graces Alcove

The walnut sculpture of St. Joseph has added a note of warmth to the stone and brick of our new buildings. Positioned in an alcove in O'Reilly Hall, the sculptured figure is the result of over a years' work by Sister Joan Louise, member of the art department.

When questioned about the wooden figure, Sister explained that she first took into consideration its function as a piece of religious sculpture. Its function, or reason for being, according to Sister, was to connote a religious

significance to the generality of people who would view it. While considering her viewers and at the same time not violating her aesthetic standards, she chose to represent St. Joseph with a certain amount of realism and simplicity; she eliminated the superficial qualities of sentimentalism and softness and projected into the form the gentle strength, containment and restraint of St. Joseph.

Sister has begun to carve into another block of walnut which will take the form of St. Teresa of Avila. This figure will be a three-quarter view and will be the same size as the St. Joseph. Sister does not plan an early completion, but will continue to sculpt in her spare time.

## Recognition and Development Draws Two Hundred Delegates

I went to the Governor's Conference at the University of Missouri thinking I would know no one and would feel quite alone except for my companion, Sister Georgiana Marie. After one hour on campus I knew I was wrong.

There was a half hour until the opening session, so I thought I'd look in on a rehearsal in the theatre of the Fine Arts Building. I approached the door hesitantly but I was cordially invited to come in by a girl working on lights. She introduced herself as K. C. "Casey" McGinnis. "I went to St. Joseph's Academy in St. Louis," she said, "and did dramatic work under Sister Mary Charity." I had found a friend on the M. U. Campus already.

While I was browsing in the Campus Bookstore during the lunch hour next day, a young girl asked if I was a Sister of St. Joseph. She had gone to Fontbonne College for two years, where Sister Mary Loretta had taught her English. She was finishing her junior and senior years at the University because of finances. "I miss the Sisters," she said, "and when I saw you I just had to speak."

And later in the afternoon when I was walking past the theatre, I saw three young men hanging banners from a second-story balcony to advertise their Shakespearean Festival (the rehearsal I had watched the night before with "Casey").

"Hi, Sister! Where ya from?"

"Kansas City, Avila College," I answered.

"Never heard of it, but I'm from Kansas City."

I tried, "College of St. Teresa!"

"Oh sure, I used to date girls from there."

Just then a woman touched my arm. I hadn't seen her because I was looking up at the boys on the balcony. "I just had to speak when I saw you. I went to Fontbonne

and was a classmate of Sister Alfred's sister, Florence. My husband is a musician with the St. Louis Philharmonic. I came with him. I have to run now. Checking out time at the hotel is 2:00 p.m. and it's that time now. But I just couldn't go by without speaking to you." And with that, she joined her husband in their car.

Then there was Thorpe Menn, literary editor of the Kansas City Star, who spoke to me because he had printed some poems written by Kay Leitner in Sister Marcella Marie's Creative Writing class. Kay was a CST graduate of '61.

And Homer Wadsworth, Avila Commencement speaker last May, who asked about Sister Olive Louise and the other Sisters.

And there was the portly gentleman who spoke to me because he knew Dr. Constance Hempl, who taught French at CST during Sister Rita Agnes' absence two summers ago. (Later we found ourselves literally on common ground when we discovered that his deafness and my near-sightedness had brought both of us to the front of the auditorium.)

And there was Dr. Richard McLanathan, a speaker at the conference and chairman of New York State's Council on the Arts. He sat opposite me at dinner. He said, "I have often visited and also lectured at your College of St. Rose in Albany, New York, and I have great respect for the College and its faculty."

I thought I knew no one yet I knew many, or rather they knew me—not as an individual but as a member of a religious community. It was not I but what I stand for that had meant something to all these friendly people. Reflecting on this, I became more aware of my personal responsibility to the community which I represented to them and the great wealth that is mine because I am a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

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## of the Arts in Society to Missouri Governor's Conference

I came home from the Governor's Conference with one thought in mind: This has been the highlight of my many and varied educational experiences! Never before had I been to such a meeting. Never had I been associated with a group of people so dedicated to the arts. Whether artists or business men, all had one goal: to raise the standards.

At the request of our late President John F. Kennedy, Governor John M. Dalton called a meeting to explore ideas for the development of the arts in Missouri. President Kennedy's purpose was to raise the standard of the arts in the nation by asking each state to assess the scope of its cultural resources and to plan expansion and development.

The conference opened with the reading of a letter of congratulations from President Kennedy to Governor Dalton, in which he said: "I see little of more importance to the future of our country and our civilization than full recognition of the place of the artist. If art is to nourish the roots of our cultural society, we must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him. I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business and statecraft." This was read at the opening dinner, Sunday evening, November 17.

Missouri was the fifteenth state to comply with the President's request. Two hundred carefully screened delegates were called, by the Governor's Special Committee on the Arts, from all parts of the state to the University in Columbia, November 17-18. Among the representatives were librarians from public and private libraries, musicians from orchestras, curators from art galleries, directors of community theatres, and teachers of art, music, and drama. Teachers, however, were in the minority since the conference was concerned with The COMMUNITY and the ARTS.

In an early session, we were reminded that the geography of a country contributes to its art. Since our country is very large our cultures will be varied. It is not like a European country, where the culture of its leading city dominates the culture of the entire country. Of the one hundred fourteen great cities in the world, twenty-three are in the United States; two of them at opposite sides are located in Missouri.

by Sister Felice, C.S.J.

There is a great loss to the state in the talent of teachers and students whose work is never known or shared outside the campus and in the professional and semi-professional groups performing in local areas. There was discussion on the importance of sharing the talent in the state. For example, the Kansas City Lyric Opera might repeat its repertoire in St. Louis and St. Louis in turn could send its Chamber Music Group to Kansas City. Appropriations of funds will be made by the state and the federal government for the cost of transporting groups who will share their works with others. Chadbourne Gilpatric, Honorary Littauer Fellow, Harvard University, on leave from the Rockefeller Foundation as Deputy Director of the Humanities and Social Science Program, told us that plans are being made to develop an interstate commerce in the arts, for there is "no greater way to serve the community than by bringing great moments in the arts to all."

A study committee in St. Louis projected the leisure time increase to the year 2000 A.D. It expects thirteen weeks or one-fourth of the year to be free time. This time can bring satisfaction to the people through the pursuit of the arts.

On Monday, November 18, Mr. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., represented President Kennedy at the Governor's Conference. He told us

there is a bill before Congress for the establishment of a National Arts Foundation comparable to the National Science Foundation. And he quoted President Kennedy: "Our nation will be judged in the future by its creativity in literature, music, art, and drama. History records quality, not quantity."

In the concluding session, the Governor's Conference was designated as a first step in establishing better communications among cultural leaders of the state and in making available to that leadership some of the significant ideas and developments appearing elsewhere in the country.

All during the conference, the President had seemed very close to us. His request had brought us together, his goal was set before us, his personal message was spoken to us by his representative. A copy was given us of his "Statement by the President Establishing the President's Advisory Council on the Arts" written at the White House, June 12, 1963.

It was incredible that only a few days after the conference we were without our President. It seemed to me as a delegate that only one way was left open to us. By doing our utmost to carry out his wishes with regard to the arts we could and would honor his memory and help make amends for the tragedy.

## Christmas Spirit Reigns at Rossiter

The resident students at Rossiter Hall are looking forward, like everyone else, to Christmas. To the dorm students, the Christmas season means even more than buying gifts, decorating trees, and having parties. It means going home.

During vacation, the girls will be scattered across the U.S. from Greenwich, Connecticut to El Paso, Texas. The largest number of girls going to one place is five who call the St. Louis area their home.

The Christmas spirit mounts more and more as the long-awaited holiday draws nearer. The boarding students drew names, and after a formal dinner Monday evening, Dec. 9, they exchanged gifts.

The snow last week did much to increase the festive spirit which prevails in Rossiter Hall. The boarders found snow in several unusual places—beds, for example. When asked how it got there, all concerned showed amazing ignorance of the incident.

The snow was too powdery to make a good snowman, but enthusiasm over the project of building one ran high, and several girls gave it the Avila try. A cone-shaped bottom section of a would-be snowman stands proudly now in a corner of Rossiter's roof.

The "boarders" as we are often called by the "day hops," wish everyone the happiest of holiday seasons.

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# An Average Senior Scholar "Stews" Over Comprehensives

Mary Ann Dunn

Double, double toil and trouble,  
Fire burn and caldron bubble.

The witches cry "'Tis time, 'tis time."

(Senior comprehensive time —  
February 21)

Round about the caldron go.  
In the poisoned comps throw.

Poems of Hopkins, Yeats and Eliot  
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot.

Works of Newton, Kant and Blake  
In the caldron boil and bake.

Add thereto some Dewey and a  
pinch of Walden  
For the ingredients of our caldron.

Everytime I think of the word "comprehensive" I envisage the preceding scene from Shakespeare. Not that those people compiling the comprehensives remind me of Shakespeare's "weird sisters" (referred to as "witches" by non-literates), but can't you just see them sitting around a huge boiling caldron, sinisterly rubbing their hands together as they add such venomous ingredients as "trace the political development of Latin America from pre-historic times to the present. Or can't you hear them cackling over an extremely difficult question: "They'll never remember the third person who coughed in act 2, scene 3 of the tenth play that Shakespeare wrote."

Just when I think I've dismissed the scene from my mind, I wake during the night screaming "Don't throw that question in the caldron. I haven't even read *The Scarlet Letter*."

I have finally decided it is absolutely ridiculous to worry about comprehensives much less to have nightmares about witches and boiling caldrons with poems and novels and Thrall and Hibbard floating around in them. After all when one reaches the status of a senior in college a 15-page questionnaire over a subject studied 4 years should not cause panic, heartburn and migraine headaches. Furthermore, as women of sound mind and body, prepared to face the cold, cruel, world, what, I ask, would be the challenge of a comprehensive on which you knew every answer??

Before making my resolution not to worry about comprehensives I considered forming a plan to study for them, but this academic idea was quickly dismissed. Why spoil a 4-year record by commencing to study during the last few months of senior year and besides, wasn't it Beowulf (or someone literary like that) who said, "if you don't know it now you never will?"

However, in my calm and confident state of anguish and regret, I leave one cry of advice to the innocent, carefree underclassmen. Retain every word you hear and see, for your day of reckoning is close at hand.



Helpful godmother Jeanie Bond gives a few pointers to the typical Avila Cinderella, Meg Salamone, on How To Get A Date For The Christmas Dance. There's nothin' to it. Just be lovely, charming, and well-dressed. Like me, says Jeanie. Transformed, our Avila Miss is all set for a date with the tall, dark, and handsome man of her choice.

## SPEAKING THE PRIVATE MIND

Jeanie Bond

It seems that I just finished writing last month's column for *The Teresian*, when Linda Moser cornered me after a chorus class and said, "Bond, write your column and turn it in by Friday . . . at the latest!" Well, I must look pathetically stricken or something, because here it is - Sunday afternoon, and I'm still writing. As a matter of fact, I won't believe that I've finished this until I see it in print. Now, I don't want to imply that I'm busier than anyone else at this time of the year; it's just that if I have to get off work for one more thing, I will be forced to retire from the business world at the early age of not-quite-19-but-almost. As you can see, this will completely cut off my money supply, thereby casting me and my family into the most miserable Christmas of my life.

However, the loss of my job wouldn't bother me too much. There is nothing that squelches your Christmas spirit quicker than a job in a department store - especially if you are creative enough to work in the Gift Wrap Department. Ah, the joy of decorating a package with bright paper and gaily colored ribbon! I hate it.

In the first place, you never know where you're going to be. You are placed where you are needed most. Now, let us suppose that they have put you in the Toy Department. A customer insists that you wrap little Leonard's genuine artificial Clutch Cargo snowshoes in that darling paper with the trains all over it "that you had last year." Here, you begin to feel the first symptoms of that I'm-not-going-to-get-through-this-without-getting-mad attitude. You very kindly explain that you have a new variety of Christmas paper to choose from this year. But our friend insists on the train paper, so you go back to the stock room and fight your way through all the paper into last year's leftovers. You find paper with guided missiles on it, you find paper with Easter eggs on it - you even find a scrap that looks like it was once part of Whistler's Mother's rocker - but no train paper. Naturally, the woman is going to be mad; so you hide back there in the stockroom, until you're pretty sure that someone else has already wrapped little Leonard's snowshoes.

Next, you go up to Cosmetics. Now, here is where your fun really

begins. Most of the packages are no larger than two inches long (unless some smart Alec buys a life-time supply of Estee Lauder Bath Oil.) So you reason that there is no need to fuss with a bow because it wouldn't even fit on the package. Then, the saleslady comes back with a bottle of Chanel No. 5 perfume and says, "Wrap this real pretty, honey. The man paid \$25 for it, so he's entitled to a package with a bow." Now, with big fingers like mine, it's pretty hard to make a bow about the size of a postage stamp. But eventually, the man gets his package and everyone is happy. The man is happy because he bought the wife something really nice; the saleslady is happy because she's rung up a nice, fat sale; and I'm happy because that man won't be in again until next year.

Another thing that makes me mad is the way that the salespeople underestimate your talents. Like I said above, the saleslady will say, "Now, make this real pretty," as though I'll make it ugly unless she tells me different. I'll admit that my packages aren't the best looking things that ever walked out of the store, but they're all right.

The last department that's really bad is the dress department, especially since all the sweet, young things are out to buy floor-length formal for the Snow Ball Soc Hop. These dresses are so bulky that it takes three women to hold one down - while two others try to put the box together. It almost makes you wish that the girl would decide to wear it home.

Speaking of Christmas dances, (notice the subtle way in which I sprung that upon you . . . kind of like a snake, as its slithering body hypnotizes its unwary victim) let's not forget our own Christmas dance. I know there are so many - Rockhurst, Notre Dame, West Point, Annapolis - but there's no place like home, I always say.

I think I'll get more into the spirit of things once I've sung a couple of good, rousing Christmas Carols. There's nothing like "Good King Wenceslaus" or "Deck the Halls" to really make you feel good. Another good method to employ is to wish someone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - so, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Everybody! And just think: By the time you read this, there will only be 371 days until Christmas of 1964.